

March 27, 2020

Dear Brigade,

As I know you have heard from the Superintendent's online video, and perhaps through other sources, we are deferring a decision on how to assign final grades until after the 12-week exam period ... i.e. whether to stay with our traditional letter grade system, or permit some version of Pass/Fail.

I realize that this is an area of anxiety for the Brigade, so the point of this email is to clarify our intent and dispel any rumors or misunderstandings.

We fully expect to stay with letter grades. Do not assume that our cautiousness regarding the ultimate decision implies that we are seriously considering shifting to a P/F grading system. That is not true. We are mindful that many other colleges and universities are doing that, but presently we do not see the need to do so ... at least given what we know right now. We still think we will be able to give fair and meaningful grades using the A-F system, but we will be wiser after we have experienced administering the 12-week exam period fully online. Hence, the caution.

For you 1/C midshipmen, none of us wants you to jeopardize graduation and commissioning because you gambled (incorrectly) on a change in the grading system. And for everyone else, none of us wants you to repeat classes in the summer or next fall because you made that same error. Please let's not make that mistake.

The Superintendent and I are mindful of the many challenges you face. We talk about that every day, and our best advice to you is this ... Let the faculty know your challenges, but don't take off the pack. Do your best possible work. The rest will work itself out.

Best regards,
ATP

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